

### 3.5.4.2 Overview of the Permit/No-Discharge Permits/ Facility Description/Outfall Description

#### **Applicability:**

An Outfall Description is a required part of the Facility Description on all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System No-Discharge permits.

#### **Content:**

##### **Outfall Description**

The first page of the issued operating permit contains an area where a facility description is to be written. Outfall descriptions for the facility are to be included in this area, and include the location of the point source as well as a detailed description of the type of wastewater and treatment device(s). The type of wastewater often defines not only what pollutants may be expected to be present, but also may indicate an effluent limit guideline which must be incorporated into the permit.

The outfall description portion of the facility description should include the following information for each outfall:

- The outfall number (e.g. #001, #002, #003, etc.),
- Type of wastewater (e.g. domestic wastewater),
- A description of the treatment devices or technology,
- The design flow, or treatment capacity, if applicable,
- Actual wastewater flow the treatment facility is receiving, if applicable,
- A SIC code for the economic activity associated with the facility,
- Locational information for the outfall that is in the form of UTM coordinates (Easting and Northing), and a legal description in the form of Township, Range, Section and County.
- Receiving watershed information derived from the USGS HUC 12 number, the actual receiving stream, lake or groundwater, and the name of the first classified water body and its water body number. Keep in mind that even though a no discharge system is constructed to avoid a discharge, the potential exists for mechanical or operational failure to cause a discharge to occur.

##### **Outfall Locations**

The location of the outfall determines what water quality based effluent limits must be considered in development of the permit, because it determines the receiving stream. The outfall may sometimes be a significant distance from the treatment facility, such as when a facility is located out of the flood plain but has an effluent pipe down to a river. The word outfall designates the point of release (discharge) or potential release of wastewater to a receiving water. Outfalls are a type of Permitted Feature, which also includes monitoring wells, instream monitoring points, etc.

Limitations must be established in permits to control all pollutants or pollutant parameters that are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have reasonable potential to cause, or

contribute to an excursion above any state water quality standard. Technical or water quality based effluent limits are included in the permit for each outfall.

Some facilities are subject to effluent limit guidelines, which describe minimum technology based effluent limitations. Therefore the description of the treatment device is important to note in the outfall description. The description also provides guidance to inspectors, so that they may understand what treatment devices the facility has been authorized to install. For storm water, pollution control is often achieved through Best Management Practices, rather than an engineered treatment device. Therefore design flows is not routinely listed for stormwater outfalls, and actual flows are dependent upon precipitation.

### **Legal References:**

*Code of State Regulations*

10 CSR 20-2.010(54)

10 CSR 20-6.010(1)